



HAMILTON COUNTY **LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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MINUTES

LEPC Meeting, May 8, 2002

A meeting of the Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was held May 8, 2002 at Wally's Restaurant, 6521 Ringgold Road, East Ridge, Tennessee.

Those in attendance were:

Bruce Garner, **Chairman**, Chattanooga Fire Department
David Darnell, **First Vice** Chairman, BASF
Jamie Farrow, **Vice Chairwomen**, Conagra Poultry
Dane Creel, **Vice Chairman**, Kraft Foods
Richard Twitchell, **Vice Chairman**, Consultant
Wayne Stuntz, **Secretary/Treasurer**
Charles Chauncey, RACES
C. R. Goodner, RACES
Chuck Nichols, Chattanooga Fire Department
Garish Patel, ALCO Chemical
George Sivils, DuPont Company
Caroline Williams, League of Women Voters
Jim Parks, Chattanooga Health Department
Tim McDonald, City Stormwater Management
David Allen, CONAGRA Foods Inc.
John Bennett, JIT Terminal, Inc.
Jon Kavalunas, CARTA
Michael James, Marion Environmental
Chris McCormack, Marion Environmental
Tony Reavley, Hamilton County Emergency Services
Vicki Riddle, Velsicol Chemical
Tyson Chandler, Mueller Company

Robert Diehl, ETVI
Caren Ruffner, City of East Ridge
Billy Mullins, Tennessee State Guard

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Those in attendance: (Cont.)

Wayne Foster, Tennessee State Guard
Maureen Handler, Environmental Response
Ken Moore, HEPACO, Inc.
Charlie Lamar, BRENNTAG, Mid-South
Pat Freeney, American Red Cross

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Bruce Garner called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance. For the benefit of newcomers, the Chairman asked each person to introduce themselves before proceeding to Old Business. The Chairman asked if everyone had received and read the minutes of the previous meeting and those in attendance indicated they had. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Richard Twitchell, and seconded by Jamie Farrow and approved by the committee at large.

Financial Report

Treasurer Wayne Stuntz handed out copies of the financial report to attending members. Mr. Stuntz addressed the report item by item and said the current balance was reconciled with the most current bank statement of March 21 thru April 18, 2002. Mr. Stuntz said that an additional \$250.00 had been deposited (a result of donations received from Tier II companies) since this statement, which was not reflected in this financial report. The financial report is a matter of LEPC record.

Old Business

The Chairman said the LEPC sends a donations/solicitation letter out at the beginning of March asking for member companies to donate to the LEPC in support of our operation and he said the response so far has been good. Mr. Garner said that a formal “thank you” letter would be sent to those who contributed and thanked those present for their support. The Chairman then asked if there was any other old business to discuss. No further old business was offered.

New Business

The Chairman then introduced Mr. Jerry Zolkowski with the Georgia Tech – Economic Development Institute as our guest speaker. Mr. Zolkowski specializes in environmental compliance, waste reduction and energy conservation. He gave an excellent presentation

on the Spill Prevention and Controls and Countermeasures (SPCC) program—its rules, risks and prevention measures. He said that the SPCC came about as a result of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, which lays out the liability for cleanup and damages and penalties.

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Mr. Zolkowski said that the Act requires prevention plans. He said all facilities must have a written program to reduce risk of oil spills reaching surface waters—that the SPCC program does not require other chemicals to be included in the SPCC plan, but often it is wise to include all chemicals so there is only one spill response document for the facility. He said that the program requires a facility to provide emergency response and handling procedures, as well as record keeping and inspection records. Mr. Zolkowski went on to talk about risk assessment and operating practices, common sources of oil fuel tanks, fuel filling, basic response procedures, how to handle materials and emergency response. A written copy of Mr. Zolkowski's presentation is available for public viewing, as well as a taped record of his presentation.

Ms. Jamie Farrow said that the reason the LEPC decided to include SPCC on the agenda after reading an article about SPCCs. Evidently SPCCs are on EPA's top 10 plans for violations, not because facilities don't know about the plan or regulations, but because people don't keep them up. Mr. Zolkowski said that the plan has to be reviewed at least every three years and if you do not amend the plan after the review, it does not need a professional engineer's (PEs) certification. The Chairman thanked Mr. Zolkowski for his very informative presentation and said his visit was timely.

The Chairman reminded the committee that the Chattanooga Manufacturing Association has graciously provided the LEPC with booth space (free of charge) to do community outreach efforts for the "Chattanooga Made" exhibition at the Northgate Mall over the next two days. Mr. Garner asked for volunteers to sign up for an hour or two to help at the LEPC booth for those two days. Mr. Garner explained that all the LEPC had to present at the booth was an LEPC videotape about safety, and a brochure that explains what the LEPC is about. He made a plea to the committee to think of other ways (visual aids, handouts, etc.) to educate the general public about the LEPC efforts and have something to handout during this event.

The Chairman then asked for Subcommittee reports, starting with the Conference Subcommittee, chaired by Mr. David Darnell. Mr. Darnell reiterated (for the benefit of those not present at the last meeting) that Hamilton County was approved to receive the State of Tennessee Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Grant for the sixth consecutive year. He said that the Conference will be a full week, starting October the 7th and that the Chattanooga Choo-Choo will be the site for the conference. Mr. Darnell said that the conference dates are Oct 9-10 (Wed-Thurs) and that the committee was still working out details of the subject matter for the two-day workshop prior to the conference.

Mr. Darnell said the committee has confirmed two speakers for the conference and that the conference will be decidedly different over past conferences—mainly due to the 9/11

incidents. Mr. Darnell reminded everyone that Chattanooga was selected to be a “stop” on the national TRANSCAER whistle stop tour that is going through the mid-Atlantic states that was put together primarily for training and awareness. He said the train would stop in Chattanooga on Friday, October 11th. The entire train will be pulled onto the Choo Choo property, which will be a great way to cap the end of the conference. He said that soon he will have about a thousand whistle-stop tour flyers to be included with the mail-out of the registration form, brochures and agenda when that is all completed. Mr. Darnell said that he also has a commitment from the American Chemical Society in Washington to post this conference on its website. He said that this conference has evolved from a statewide into a multi-state event. He reminded everyone that the grant money would most likely not cover the entire expense of the conference and made a plea to member companies that if they can sponsor a coffee break, a continental breakfast, or a break during one of those two days—it would be greatly appreciated. He also said that if a company or potential vendor sponsors one of the breaks—their exhibitor space is free of charge.

Chairman Garner then called on Ms. Jamie Farrow to report on progress of the Exercise Subcommittee. Jamie reminded all that the LEPC’s Emergency Response Plan had to be reviewed annually and that one of the ways to review the plan is to participate in a fall exercise at one of the facilities in Chattanooga. Ms. Farrow again made a plea to member companies present to come forward and volunteer to host the fall exercise. Mr. Darnell of BASF has put his company on the list to host the fall exercise—but urged others to step up to the plate. Chief Tony Reavley with Hamilton County Emergency Services said John Bennett with JIT Terminal offered his facility to host the annual exercise. The Chairman thanked Mr. Bennett for stepping up to the plate and said he would be contacted at a later date.

Mr. Garner noted that the Membership Subcommittee Chairperson, Ms. Amy Maxwell, had a previous engagement and would not be in attendance. Mr. Garner then asked if there was anyone in attendance, not yet a member, who wished to become a member of the LEPC. There were none.

The Chairman sort of piggy-backed on Mr. Darnell’s statement that this year’s conference would be somewhat different over past conferences since 9/11—saying that there are a lot of things going on behind the scenes. He said firefighters, police officers, and others are traveling to various places around the country to receive specialized training for chemical/biological terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. Mr. Garner said our local personnel are learning how to properly respond to these types of situations in the event our community became a target. As an example of how things have changed, Mr. Garner said the Health Department called him recently to inform the fire department

that they would be spraying for mosquitoes. He said that this activity might create some concern now, whereas before 9/11, no one would have given it a second thought.

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Mr. Garner said he agreed with the direction the conference agenda was going as it is all tied together. He said the LEPC is concerned with chemical safety, and considering what is available in our community, our facilities could be targets for terrorism. The Chairman reminded us that just a short few months ago, a disturbed individual hi-jacked an AmeriGas propane truck, and instantly it turned into a potential weapon of mass destruction. Mr. Garner said that at any moment, Hamilton County could be a target to such a threat, which is why the direction the Conference is heading is right on track. Mr. Garner also mentioned that federal agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Justice and Health and Human Services are offering grants related to terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. In addition to those initiatives, the President has encouraged the formation of "Citizen Corps." Mr. Garner said that LEPCs might fit the definition of a local Citizen Corps. The Chairman said that he is investigating the correlation between LEPCs and Citizen Corps. This has been up-channeled through local Emergency Management to TEMA to see how the LEPC relates to the Citizen Corp concept. Mr. Garner said he will keep us informed when we learn more about this.

The Chairman asked if there was any other new business to discuss before adjournment. Mr. Darnell said that he had received an e-mail from the American Chemical Society in Washington and said that they have agreed to donate \$500.00 to any committee that is on the Whistle Stop Tour this year, to be used for promotional purposes. He said they would set up a separate checking account for this committee—but, Mr. Darnell said that, "unless there was no objection, he would like to have that money deposited into the LEPCs general treasury—to be used specifically for the purpose of using it for banners, or other promotional purposes during the event in October". The Chairman asked Mr. Darnell if he wanted it in the form of a motion. Mr. Darnell made the motion to deposit the money into the general treasury, which was seconded by Ms. Farrow. The motion was approved by the committee.

Wrapping up the session, the next meeting was set for July 10th, 10:30 a.m., at Wally's Restaurant in East Ridge. The Chairman reminded all about the Dutch treat lunch and encouraged members to remain.